(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shri Uday Patwardhan, General Secretary, Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh in his letter dated 30.05.2006 addressed to Labour Bureau observed that the new All India Consumer Price India (AICPI) remaining stagnant during January to March, 2006, despite increase in prices of wheat, rice, sugar, gur, cereals etc., possibly due to improper price collection, has eroded dearness allowance payable to employees, which should be rectified.

A reply was sent to Shri Patwardhan by Labour Bureau of 14.07.2006 stating that as against January, 2006, during February, 2006 price indices decreased in 30 centres, while they remained stationary in 31 centres and recorded increase in 17 centres. Similarly, during March, 2006 while price indices decreased in 19 centres, they remained stationary in 27 centres and increased in 32 centres. On the other hand, during April, 2006, while price indices decreased in 5 centres, they remained stationary in 15 centres and increased in 58 centres. As a result, while rounding up, the AICPI with base 2001=100 remained at 119 during January, February and March, 2006 but increased to 120 during April, 2006; and subsequently to 121 in May, 2006; to 123 in June, 2006; to 124 during July and August, 2006 and to 125 during September, 2006.

(c) and (d) The approval of Ministry of Labour & Employment was obtained before the Labour Bureau released New Series of Consumer Price Index numbers on base 2001=100 with effect from January, 2006 index on 9th March, 2006. All the technical details relating to the new series of Consumer Price Index Numbers on base 2001=100 have been approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL).

Exploitation of contract labour

831. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that contract labourers are exploited and are unable to get even a fraction of the facilities available to

permanent workers of big public sector enterprises, such as BHEL, NALCO, IOC and others; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps proposed to be taken for the welfare of contract workers particularly to make the principal employer responsible for the welfare of contract workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been enacted with a view to regulating the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain specific circumstances. There is no restriction on establishments to engage contract labour in those processes, operations or works wherein engagement of contract labour has not been prohibited under the provisions of the Act. Adequate provisions exist in the various labour laws including the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 to protect the interests of contract labour in terms of their welfare, health and social security and prevent their exploitation.

Unemployment as per National Sample Survey

832. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest report of National Sample Survey, 58 per cent of the population of the country in year 2004-05 was unemployed;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of maximum people without work was highest among the educated, than the uneducated, and amongst 42 per cent employed people, the rural areas accounted for 44 per cent and urban areas 37 per cent; and

(c) if so, what is rate of employment during 2005-06, as compared to 2004-05, amongst males/females employed in service sector, manufacturing sector and agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through the quinquennial labour force surveys carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation